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The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

<u>Listing of claims:</u>

1   1. (currently amended) A Skills Matching Application (SMA) ~~which allows a~~
2   ~~user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that~~
3   ~~significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests~~
4   ~~sent to suppliers~~ comprising:
5   means for ~~accessing~~ invoking the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog
6   (REQ/CAT) application, said REQ/CAT application being able to requisition
7   technical services from a catalog of contracted suppliers;
8   means for ~~prompting~~ a user ~~through a series of screens~~ to enter a
9   services request into the SMA, the services request further comprising a
10   Statement of Work (SOW) and ~~complete~~ a skills detail checklist for each of
11   the technical skills ~~requested to provide a detailed statement of required skills~~
12   ~~and abilities for an employee~~ needed to perform said services request;
13   means for ~~selecting~~ the SMA to identify contracted suppliers for each
14   of said technical skills needed to perform said services request and to assign a
15   priority to the identified suppliers based on said technical skills;
16   means for ~~submitting a notification to~~ notifying the identified
17   contracted suppliers in sequence based upon said SMA assigned priority
18   ~~selected in said selecting step by e-mail notification notifying the supplier~~ that
19   ~~a new~~ said services request has been entered into the SMA application;
20   means for said notified suppliers to retrieve and review said ~~detailed~~
21   ~~statement of required skills and abilities for an employee~~ services request
22   using the SMA application ~~and submit a candidate against said detailed~~
23   ~~statement of required skills and abilities for an employee~~;

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24   means for receiving at the SMA from a notified supplier a submission

25 identifying a candidate or candidates with appended resumes, as appropriate

26 having the technical skills required to perform said services request; and

27   means for notifying the user that a submission in response to said

28 services request has been received at the SMA from one of said identified

29 suppliers and displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated

30 resumes response submitted by said supplier; and

31   means for the SMA to notify all said notified suppliers when the user

32 acts upon the services request.

1 2. (previously presented) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1,

2 wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA

3 Web site is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit

4 a candidate or candidates.

1 3. (previously presented) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further

2 comprising means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or

3 candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process running on a

4 computer system.

1 4. (currently amended) A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA)

2 which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service

3 suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the

4 accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

5   means for accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog

6 (REQ/CAT) Web application, said REQ/CAT application being able to

7 requisition technical services from a catalog of contracted suppliers;

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8   means for selecting, by a user who needs to request a technical

9   contractor, a SMA Web site;

10   means for ~~prompting~~ the user ~~through a series of screens~~ in the SMA

11   Web site to enter a <u>services request further comprising a</u> Statement of Work

12   (SOW) and ~~complete~~ a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills

13   ~~requested to provide a detailed statement of required employee skills and~~

14   ~~abilities~~ <u>needed to perform said services request</u>;

15   means for selecting suppliers;

16   means for ~~submitting a notification to~~ <u>notifying</u> contracted suppliers

17   selected in said selecting step ~~who are sent an e-mail notification notifying the~~

18   ~~supplier~~ that a new request has been entered into the SMA application;

19   means for ~~suppliers~~ <u>a notified supplier</u> to access the SMA Web site

20   database ~~by a supplier~~ to view the ~~detailed statement of required skills and~~

21   ~~abilities for an employee of a said~~ <u>services</u> request;

22   means for ~~providing, by a supplier,~~ <u>a supplier to submit</u> a candidate or

23   candidates <u>responsive to the services request</u> by accessing the SMA Web site

24   ~~and submitting candidates and appending resumes as appropriate; and~~

25   means for ~~viewing, by~~ the user, <u>to view</u> the supplier responses ~~and~~

26   ~~associated resumes~~ and <u>to accept or reject</u> ~~either accepting or rejecting~~ each

27   candidate submitted<u>; and</u>

28   <u>means for the SMA to notify all said notified suppliers when the</u>

29   <u>user acts upon the services request</u>.

1   5. (currently amended) A computer system running Skills Matching

2   Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to

3   technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time

4   and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

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5   means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT)

6   application also running on the computer system, said REQ/CAT application

7   being able to requisition technical services from a catalog of contracted

8   suppliers;

9   a display system for ~~prompting~~ a user ~~through a series of screens~~ to

10   enter a services request into the SMA, the services request further comprising

11   a Statement of Work (SOW) and ~~complete~~ a skills detail checklist for each of

12   the technical skills ~~requested to provide a detailed statement of required skills~~

13   ~~and abilities for an employee~~ needed to perform said services request;

14   means for ~~selecting~~ the SMA to identify contracted suppliers for each

15   of said technical skills needed to perform said services request and to assign a

16   priority to the identified suppliers based on said technical skills;

17   transmitting means for ~~submitting a notification to~~ notifying said

18   identified contracted suppliers ~~selected in said selecting step by e-mail~~

19   ~~notification notifying the supplier~~ in sequence based upon said SMA assigned

20   priority that ~~a new~~ said services request has been entered into the SMA

21   application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

22   means for retrieving and reviewing said ~~detailed statement of required~~

23   ~~skills and abilities for an employee~~ services request in response to said

24   notification; and

25   receiving means for receiving at said display system, from a notified

26   supplier, a submission identifying a candidate or candidates ~~with appended~~

27   ~~resumes as appropriate, said display system displaying, for the user, the~~

28   ~~supplier responses and associated resumes~~ having the technical skills needed

29   to perform said services request; and

30   means for the SMA to notify all said notified suppliers when the user

31   acts upon the services request.

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1   6. (original) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the SMA and

2   REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site running on the

3   computer system is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and

4   submit a candidate or candidates.

1   7. (original) The computer system of claim 5, further comprising means for

2   responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an

3   approval and procurement process running on said computer system.

1   8. (new) A method for engaging technical service suppliers, comprising:

2   prompting a user to enter a services request into a Skills Matching

3   Application (SMA), the services request further comprising a Statement of

4   Work (SOW) and a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills

5   needed to perform said services request;

6   identifying by the SMA suppliers for each of the needed technical

7   skills;

8   assigning by the SMA a priority to the identified suppliers based on

9   said needed technical skills;

10   notifying the identified suppliers in sequence based upon said SMA

11   assigned priority that said services request has been entered into the SMA;

12   receiving at the SMA from a notified supplier a submission identifying

13   a candidate or candidates having the technical skills needed to perform said

14   services request;

15   notifying the user that a submission in response to said services request

16   has been received at the SMA; and

17   notifying all notified suppliers when the user acts upon the services

18   request.

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1   9. (new) A method as in claim 8, wherein the user acts upon the services

2   request by accepting a candidate identified by a supplier.

1   10. (new) A method as in claim 9, wherein electronic mail is used to notify all

2   other notified suppliers that said services request is closed.

1   11. (new) A method as in claim 8, wherein in said assigning step the SMA

2   identifies primary suppliers and secondary suppliers, and wherein said

3   secondary suppliers are notified a pre-determined time after said primary

4   suppliers are notified.

1   12. (new) A method as in claim 8, wherein the user acts upon the services

2   request by withdrawing the services request.

1   13. (new) The Web-based Skills Matching Application of claim 4, wherein

2   the selecting means selects a supplier having earlier performed for the user the

3   same or a similar services request.

1   14. (new) The Web-based Skills Matching Application of claim 13, wherein

2   the submission by the notified supplier identifies a candidate currently

3   performing the same or a similar services request.

1   15. (new) A method as in claim 8, wherein said supplier submission includes

2   a resume of an identified candidate.

1   16. (new) A method as in claim 9, further comprising invoking a process for

2   approval and procurement of the candidate accepted by the user.

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1   17. (new) A method as in claim 8, wherein the user accesses the SMA from a

2   Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application.

1   18. (new) A method as in claim 17, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT

2   applications are Web based and an SMA Web site is provided for notified

3   suppliers to view service request details and submit a candidate or candidates.

1   19. (new) A method as in claim 9, further comprising invoking a process for

2   approval and procurement of the candidate accepted by the user, prior to

3   notifying suppliers that the request is closed.